

Council on Postsecondary Education
September 17, 2006

Focus on Reform
Northern Kentucky University's Center for Integrative Natural
Science and Mathematics (CINSAM)

The Center for Integrative Natural Science and Mathematics (CINSAM) was approved and funded as Northern Kentucky University's Program of Distinction in the 1998-2000 biennium through the Regional University Excellence Trust Fund. As outlined in the *Kentucky Postsecondary Education Improvement Act of 1997*, one of the objectives of the regional trust fund is to enable each of the comprehensive universities to become nationally recognized in at least one academic program of distinction or one applied research program.

CINSAM is not a degree-granting program. The program coordinates activities in teaching, research, and the application of science and mathematics across the departments of biological sciences, chemistry, mathematics and computer science, physics, and geology in NKU's College of Arts and Sciences and in the institution's College of Education. It focuses on science and mathematics at all educational levels, as well as in the public and private sectors throughout the region. CINSAM coordinates integrative science and mathematics courses for teacher candidates; develops alliances among teachers, faculty, industry scientists, and engineers; provides scholarships, externships, and research opportunities for students in business and industry; and offers symposia to improve public understanding of science and mathematics.

Phillip H. Schmidt, NKU professor of mathematics and director of CINSAM, will present an overview of CINSAM at the September 17 meeting.

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